

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GHERMAN:LHW
APPROVED BY NEA:MSTERNER
-----107876 250155Z /14
O 250134Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S
KNESSET REMARKS

1. PER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND
STERNER AND AMBASSADOR ATHERTON, FOLLOWING IS THE PRESS
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IS USING IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS ABOUT FONMIN DAYAN'S REMARKS IN THE KNESSET
WEDNESDAY (MAY 24). BEGIN TEXT:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT EGYPT HAS PROVIDED THE UNITED STATES
WITH PROPOSALS ABOUT THE WEST BANK AND GAZA NEGOTIATIONS,
IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI QUESTIONS, AND THAT THE STATE DEPART-
MENT REFUSED TO TRANSMIT THEM TO ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY WERE
SO BAD?

A. -- WE HAVE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS AND ARE RATHER PUZZLED
BY THEM.

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-- WE HAVE CONVEYED NO "DOCUMENT" TO ISRAEL AS SUGGESTED
IN THE REPORTS OF THE MAY 19 MEETING BETWEEN OUR AMBASSADOR
AND FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN.

-- THE STATUS OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS IS AS GIVEN
BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT LAST FRIDAY: WE ARE WAITING FOR

ANSWERS FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET ASKED OF FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN BY SECRETARY VANCE, AND WE
CONTINUE IN CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT ABOUT ANY IDEAS
HE MAY HAVE FOR MOVING FORWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING

THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. WE HAVE RECEIVED
SOME IDEAS FROM THE EGYPTIANS AND ARE CONTINUING OUR
EXCHANGE WITH THEM IN THIS RESPECT. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN
ASKED BY ISRAEL TO CONVEY CERTAIN QUESTIONS TO EGYPT.

-- WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING EACH SIDE GENERALLY INFORMED OF
THE VIEWS AND THE QUESTIONS OF THE OTHER AS WE UNDERSTAND
THEM. AT NO TIME HAVE WE DECLINED TO TRANSMIT ANYTHING
TO ONE SIDE WHICH THE OTHER HAS ASKED US TO CONVEY.

-- BEYOND THAT, IT SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO GO INTO
THE SPECIFICS OF THESE EXCHANGES. OUR ROLE AS MIDDLEMAN
DEPENDS UPON THE CONFIDENCE BOTH SIDES HAVE IN US. (END
TEXT)
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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